

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 82

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Colonel Tommy Baker on his recent promotion and recognize his service to the people of Tennessee and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue the State's time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, one such noble citizen is Tommy Baker, who, on February 2, 2011, was promoted to the rank of Colonel in the Tennessee Army National Guard during a stirring ceremony at the National Guard Headquarters in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this momentous achievement, Colonel Baker was also named the new Director of Logistics for the Tennessee National Guard, in which capacity he will oversee the acquisition, distribution, and maintenance of equipment, supplies, and services for National Guard units and individual soldiers across our great State; and

WHEREAS, a native of Huntingdon, Tommy Baker is the son of Harold and Roberta Baker and a 1981 graduate of Huntingdon High School; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Colonel Baker attended the Combined Arms and Services Staff School and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and is currently enrolled in the prestigious U.S. Army War College; and

WHEREAS, this selfless patriot has rendered thirty years of faithful, military service and performed his duties with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout two tours of duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, for his many years of devoted service to his State and Nation, Colonel Baker has earned a plethora of awards and decorations, including the Combat Action Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Tommy Baker is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife, Camille Arnold Baker; he is also the proud father of Hillari, a kindergarten teacher at Lakewood Elementary School in Paris, and Cody, a junior at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro and an Infantryman in Troop A, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS, the distinguished military career of Colonel Tommy Baker can only be categorized as outstanding; he truly epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a genuine Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Colonel Baker for his dedication to the people of Tennessee and the nation of which it is a part; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Colonel Tommy H. Baker on his recent promotion, express to him our most heartfelt appreciation for his service to the people of Tennessee and the United States of America, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.